

# PURE MILK FOR WASHINGTON

## A Thousand Families to Be Supplied With Ashburn Milk.

### 2,000-ACRE MILK FARM IN VIRGINIA

Clean milk from clean cows, fed on clean food, drinking clean water, milked by clean men in clean barns, sent to Washington in clean cans and delivered to families in sealed bottles.

#### DOCTORS DECLARE IMPURE MILK CAUSES CONSUMPTION, DIPHTHERIA, TYPHOID FEVER AND CHOLERA—AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR STEWART AND A VISIT TO ASHBURN FARM.

In all the leading cities the milk question is being agitated. The New York newspapers have taken up the subject as vigorously as the reform movement that elected Mayor Low.

The Washington Star has published many articles upon the question during the past few years. Congress has taken the matter up. The physicians of Washington have urged immediate action that will compel dealers to sell pure milk.

Impure milk is the source of disease and death—typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever and consumption, says the District Health Officer.

It is clearly proven that most milk comes from unsanitary cattle, is sold in unsanitary cans, frequently diluted with water containing germs of disease, and preserved with dangerous drugs. It is also demonstrated that no milk can be guaranteed pure unless it comes from clean cows, fed with clean food and drinking clean water, milked by clean men in clean barns, into clean milk pails, then cleansed by a separator of the dirt that gets into milk even under the most sanitary conditions; then sent to market in sealed cans and delivered to the consumer in sealed bottles while still pure and fresh. Legislation cannot compel dairymen to do all this, even if each dairyman had \$50,000 with which to equip such a plant.

#### The Profit in Impure Milk.

There are other reasons: The purer milk is the less the dairyman's profits are.

The more negligent, disease-producing conditions tolerated, the more the dairyman's profits are.

Pure milk costs the producer much more than impure milk, but it costs the public the same—8 cents a quart.

A dairyman must do a large business to make money selling pure milk. An ordinary milkman is not satisfied with the limited profits in sanitary milk.

A man with a few ill-fed, unclean cows in a tumble-down shed can make money selling unsanitary milk. He can feed them any old fodder that will keep them alive, give them water out of the nearest cesspool, let dirt accumulate on their flanks till it cakes and falls off; use milk pails and cans that have not been sterilized since he bought them, and still if his milk contains a lawful percentage of solids and fats get just as much for it as if it came from Ashburn farm.

#### Ashburn Farm.

Ashburn farm is the new dairy farm over in Virginia which is demonstrating what can be done to supply Washington with pure milk, carrying out the recommendations of the health board.

It has been supplying the principal hospitals and hotels for some time.

It is owned by a company which has selected Senator William M. Stewart as its president. The Senator's interest in milk is largely public, the same as his interest in the school question, which resulted last year in congressional action that greatly improved the school system of the District. Leading physicians like Dr. Sowers and Dr. Kober called the Senator's attention to the milk supply of Washington some time ago, and he made an investigation that resulted in his being willing to accept the presidency of the company that is making a revolution in milk.

The Senator is a practical farmer. He spent his boyhood on a farm and with the woodsman's ax and haymaker's scythe earned the money to educate himself and his sister. When still a boy he managed the

herding of a drove of fifteen hundred cattle from Ohio to Philadelphia.

I asked the Senator, interviewing him at the office of the Ashburn Company, just why he took up milk.

#### An Interview With Senator Stewart.

"Because it is one of the most important questions before the public. I have seen many of the dairies that supply milk to Washington, and their unsanitary condition calls for immediate action. We do not expect to make money at Ashburn farm. If we come out even we shall be satisfied; but we propose to give a portion of the population pure milk at the price that they are now paying for impure milk, although there is a great difference between the first cost of pure milk and impure milk. Pure milk is comparatively expensive, and selling it at the same price people pay for ordinary milk does not leave much of a margin for profit."

"Why don't you charge more for it?"

"We have never even thought of doing so."

"How much milk can you supply?"

"A thousand families with a quart a day. If many families take more than a quart, we could not supply over eight hundred homes."

"Is all milk now supplied to Washington impure?"

"No, not all of it. There are some two or three dairies that are run as they should be. A dairy to be run as it should be must do more than deliver milk to the consumer just as it comes from the cow. Even under the most careful conditions dirt gets into milk and must be taken out of the milk before the milk can be said to be pure. At Ashburn farm we put our milk through a separator, which drives the dirt out of the milk. When you see the dirt which accumulates at the bottom of the separator you will probably be astonished, and if this dirt gets into the milk at Ashburn farm, where everything is just as sanitary as it can be, you can judge how much dirt will get in under the conditions usually prevailing in dairies. You can take the solid dirt out of milk by using a separator, but you cannot take out the intangible dirt. For instance, the odor of an unclean stable once in the milk, it is there to stay, and, therefore, at Ashburn farm we see that there are no odors to get into the milk."

"Does it cost a great deal of money to equip such a farm?"

"It has cost the Ashburn Company many thousands, and probably very few dairymen would care to duplicate the expense."

The Senator told me to come down to Ashburn farm and see for myself. I went down one Saturday night. It is an hour's ride on the Southern. A long milk car on the train put off milk cans all along the road, and I compared the immaculate cleanliness of the cans put off at Ashburn with the condition of the cans put off at other places. Of course, everybody knows that to keep a milk can clean it must be sterilized in boiling water or steam. There is no other way the dirt can be removed, or the germs of disease that breed in the milk left in the cans can be killed. Very few of the cans on that train bore evidence of having been sterilized, or kept scrupulously clean by any other method, nor were they the kind of cans that are sealed when the milk is in them.

#### Milk Men Who Do Not Use Clean Cans.

A man who used to be in the milk business recently told me how the farmers milk their cows, and send the milk over to the depot in big cans to stand around for hours waiting for the milk train, freezing in winter and subject to all kinds of contamination in the summer. And this milkman is also authority for the statement that the average dairyman never sterilizes his milk cans or his milk pails, because he does not have the facilities and cannot afford

them, and there is no law that can compel him to put them in.

Driving over to the farm in the Senator's carriage the Virginian who held the reins said that Ashburn farm was really two big farms, one of 600 and one of 1,800 acres, that used to be a big dairy farm years ago, but got run down and neglected, until the Ashburn Company bought it, and put in a fine herd of 300 high-bred milch cows, built sanitary barns and put in pumps and machinery, and hired a lot of people, and made it the finest milk farm in the state.

In one end of the big, old-fashioned farm house the Senator has his library and office, with books on all branches of farming, from horseshoeing to ensilage, and a shelf dedicated to Dumas and Bulwer Lytton, his favorite authors, while over the mantel a Savage rifle fitted in with the Senator's stories of early days on the Pacific slope, which will make a book that will run into the hundred thousand edition, if he ever finds time to write them out.

#### Ashburn House.

Ashburn farm house is a modernized and immaculate farm residence. It has more bath rooms in it than most city mansions.

The house, however, is only incidental compared with the big barns, where the cattle live. Here the cows are in immaculate stalls—fifty in a row, in two long barns that have cement floors, with a little canal a foot wide and six inches deep running through the barns behind the rows of cattle to take away the liquid refuse, which is flushed out by a deluge of water that carries it through an elevated canal to a reservoir far away from the barns, whence tank wagons spread it as a rich fertilizer over the fields where grow the corn and grain and grass with which the cows are fed. The solid refuse is removed with equally scrupulous care, and also fertilize the field. The clean-swept barn floors are sprinkled white with land lime, which eats up the last vestige of dirt and absorbs every impurity, so that you can walk through the barns with your eyes closed and you can only tell that you are in a barn, instead of a dwelling house, by the fragrance of the fodder.

#### The Feed and Water Question.

What the cows are fed has much to do with the richness of the milk, and the water the cows drink has much to do with the milk's purity. You cannot have good milk without good food for the cow. You cannot have clean milk unless the cow drinks clean water. There is only one time when water can be added to milk with safety, and that is when it is given the cow to drink. Water that is added to the milk after it comes from the cow is not only dishonest, but dangerous to public health, for water carries germs of disease into milk. Water that is not clean when drunk by the cow may carry impurity with it, and therefore at Ashburn farm the water that the cows drink is an important consideration.

"We have two wells over 200 feet deep," said the senator. "Engines pump this pure water into tanks, from which it flows into troughs in the barn, where the cattle drink it, and they will not drink any other. They will not drink the water in the fields. This water is pure and not too cold. To give cows ice water in troughs out of doors or in streams or springs is cruelty; it endangers the health of the cow and the quality of the milk. Most dairy herds are permitted to drink from the frog ponds and streams in the pastures. Such water is filled with impurities, and when stirred up by a herd of cows drinking out of it is bound to be muddy and filthy."

The troughs the Ashburn cows drink out of—two to every three cows—are clean iron basins, kept filled automatically. When the cow drinks a trough empty it fills again to a certain level.

The food Ashburn cows have would require a scientific discussion to do it justice. It influences importantly the quality of the milk. To get just what is required to feed the cows properly all manner of cereals raised at Ashburn farm and large quantities of food is bought from other sources, carloads of bran, meal, gluten, etc.

#### Silos and Ensilage.

There are two silos that stand higher than a three-story house and look like gigantic stamperes. One of them holds 500 tons of ensilage. Ensilage is green fodder preserved by shutting it out from the air, "a process," the senator says, "known to the ancients, who preserved ensilage in silos upon the desert for feeding caravan camels. Our silos are built of two-inch planks, bound with iron hoops, lined with heavy felt

cloth and planed boards. We fill them in the season with green fodder, and it is fed to the stock in the winter."

In every direction from the great barns are fields. In some of them the cows take the air daily. Others are devoted to pasturage and to raising different kinds of fodder. The senator's theory is that something should be kept growing all the time, and the ground kept well fertilized. For instance, wheat and rye are raised and plowed in to enrich the soil on which the corn is grown for the cattle.

#### A Stable Railroad.

The fodder is carried about the barns by a small railroad system running through Ashburn barns to carry the milk from the milking to the dairy, etc.

The first milking takes place at the unearthly hour of 4 a.m. About half-past 3 in the morning I was awakened by a hair-raising shriek from a steam whistle. I thought the farm was on fire, but they told me the next morning that it was the signal for the milkers to tackle the cows. I did not see them tackle the cows that morning, but waited until 4 in the afternoon, and a sturdy set of young farmers I found them, in white jackets, on proverbial three-legged stools, with the milk pouring from the udders in two strong streams, making that milking noise that Kipling could describe, and the delicious odor of warm milk rising upon the pure air. They work on a succession of cows, and their pails are emptied into long cans and sent on a small railroad to the dairy, which is separate from the barns—a sacred institution that is guarded from contamination and elevates the milk to the absolute purity of sanitary science.

#### A Sanitary System.

It is strained through a wire sieve and two thicknesses of fine cloth. Then in a room where the floors are cement, and the walls are immaculate, and the air is filtered, and the milkmen are all in white, the milk goes through the separator and the cooler, and some of it through the pasteurizer. Ashburn milk is either pasteurized or not, as the consumer wishes. Its pasteurizer is of the brand indorsed by the University of Wisconsin, and the pasteurization is so carefully done that just the right temperature, always within two or three degrees of 155 Fahrenheit, is maintained. This brings out the milk with a better taste than it had before and influences its sanitary qualities, which is particularly important in summer.

The separator is also very important. It is a little machine that does wonders. Discs revolve inside of it fifty-six hundred times a minute, and the centrifugal force sends the dirt in the milk to the bottom, the cream to the top and the skimmed milk half way. The cream comes out of one spout rich and pure, and the skimmed milk out of another spout. The skimmed milk and cream unite again as they go down a sterilized toboggan slide to the cooler, when full milk instead of cream is being prepared, and leave behind the dirt that was in them.

The senator said that I would be surprised at the dirt—and I was.

#### A Demonstration of Dirt in Milk.

They took the separator to pieces before they put milk in it to show that it was entirely clean. After running twenty gallons through they took it apart again, and down in the bottom there was a slimy mass, the constituency and color of modified mud. The separator man showed me that it was composed of dirt, sand and dust and all manner of little fragments that would naturally be shaken into the milk in the process of milking, no matter how clean the cows or how careful the milkers are.

"There is a little germ that cakes up the end of the teat and is apt to drop into the milk," said the senator. "Therefore, the first milk that comes from each cow is thrown away. But there are other things that no one can prevent getting into the milk, and which never can be taken out of it, except by a separator. Once we have purified the milk we never allow any impurity to get into it again, for it is sent up to Washington in sealed cans that have been thoroughly sterilized in steam, and it is delivered to homes in sealed bottles."

#### A Heavy Investment.

There are five steam engines at Ashburn farm to run the pumps, grind the fodder and run the machinery of the dairy. In fact, the company has spent a great deal of money in perfecting its pure milk process. First, it costs a great deal to buy high-class cows. The Ashburn cows come of the best herds in the country, raised in Loudoun county, the best stock-raising county in Virginia. Ashburn farm itself is a valuable piece of property, consisting of woodland and meadow in the combination that makes an ideal dairy farm. It takes a large number of employees to do the farming and care for the cattle and handle the milk. Every detail is expensive, and the wonder is that the company should offer its milk at 8 cents a quart, the same as any other milk.

At this price the demand for Ash-

burn milk has developed, until at 1406 Pennsylvania avenue, where its city depot is, orders are coming in so fast for both milk and cream that it will not be long before applicants will have to go on the waiting list, for, big as Ashburn farm is, it would take at least a dozen such to supply pure milk to the whole of Washington.

If all the people of Washington went down to Ashburn farm, as I did, and also visited the dairies that supply most of the milk of Washington, the demand for Ashburn milk would immediately be many times greater than the supply.

#### THE INVESTIGATOR.

#### GAME IN ABUNDANCE

AND ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO GO FAR FROM WASHINGTON.

#### Sport With Rod or Gun in Near-By States—Deer and Turkeys—Bass and Trout.

Written for The Evening Star.

There is probably no large city in the United States, certainly none east of the Rocky mountains, whose location is so favorable to the hunter and fisherman as Washington. It is generally known, perhaps, that deer can be found within four hours' ride of the capital; that black bear trail can be struck by supper time by the man who leaves here at noon; that wild turkeys are fairly plentiful within four hours' ride; that quail, pheasant and small game are within gunshot in the same distance.

And as for fishing—well, there is no end to it and very convenient. Black bass, of course, are within easiest reach, but mountain trout are not so far away, and there are plenty of lively fish in the lower Potomac.

The statement that wild deer can be found within four hours' ride of the capital of the United States is absolutely true. They are not on game preserves, either, but range the bottom lands in one direction and the mountains in the other, and are fair prey for any gun that can reach them. They are the common deer of the Appalachians, and are usually hunted on the edge of the mountains, where a station along a runway, and the guides driving the game within gunshot.

Deer are most plentiful in the region just below Richmond, Va. That is, only three and one-half hours' run from Washington, and within an hour's ride of the capital of the confederacy are stations where the hunter can alight and find all in readiness for a hunt that will almost certainly produce results.

One of the best hunting grounds of the game in that section is that there are many half-abandoned estates, partly grown up in timber, with cultivated fields adjoining, and some of the land is in the hands of sportsmen from the north.

#### Deer and Wild Turkeys.

Deer are also to be found in the mountains of West Virginia and Maryland, between Martinsburg and Cumberland, a short ride on the railroad. They are not as plentiful as wild turkeys, however. As every hunter knows, there is plenty of sport in hunting wild turkeys, and it is not to be accomplished by a rifle with the gun. In the region mentioned will be found old mountaineer guides who know every turkey track of the neighboring rough country—and, don't make any mistake, they are rough country. They are the hunter to favorable spots where the chances are more than even in his favor. He can get a shot at a bunch of turkeys, or a shot at a single bird, or a shot at a turkey that is in the act of gobbling or the answering hen from their native wilds.

Pheasants and quail also are to be found in this region, with no end of foxes, the latter so numerous as to be a menace to the small game of all kinds, especially the quail. The effort made to run the foxes, as the topography of the country will not permit the use of horses out of the narrow mountain trails that hug the valley floor, and only the most expert of hunters in the last necessity.

Black bears are found in Virginia and West Virginia, along the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, between Baltimore and Ohio railroad. On the former line one can get off anywhere between Goshen and Pine Forge, and within easy reach of Washington, and go on a hunt for a bear. The bear is not a very aggressive animal, but he is not to be trifled with. The way of the dogs than he is attacking the hunter. On the Baltimore and Ohio railroad black bear are found in the country between Hancock and Paw Paw.

The Washington hunters don't talk very much about the advantages of the neighborhood of the hunter, but they are really selfish in one regard—he does not want to let the other fellow know about it. The game is the same until he has had a crack at it. He does not want the fellow coming out of the depot with the spoils of the hunt and ask him where he got it and he will not tell him. He will not tell him. Wild ducks have been very plentiful this fall and winter, and thousands of them have been killed and brought to town, not only by the "poor boys" but by the occasional sportsman. The favorite hunting region is the neighborhood of Havre de Grace, Md. The sportsmen usually get off at the city of Havre de Grace, and the ducks are abundant. The local guides will be found to show them the ducking blinds.

#### The City of Belgrade.

Wm. E. Curtis in the Chicago Record Herald.

The city of Belgrade lies upon a narrow, elevated peninsula between the river Save and the Danube. It has improved considerably during the last quarter of a century. The streets are wide and lined with fine buildings after the Austrian style of architecture, with frequent open squares which the public uses for market places. The old part of the city nearest to the banks of the Danube, which was built during Turkish domination, is composed of low buildings of adobe, with roofs of red tile, fronting upon narrow and crooked streets, and abounding in filth and bad smells. One part is given up to the Jewish population, who are huddled together in narrow quarters called the ghetto, although many are supposed to be rich and to own large areas of valuable real estate in other sections of the city. There is no persecution of the Jews in Serbia. Freedom of worship is granted by the constitution, although the state religion is the Greek orthodox. One of a total population of 2,312,484 there are 2,281,018 members of that church. The Roman Catholics number 10,411; the Mohammedans 11,886; Turks 2,489; Jews, 5,102; Protestants 1,002.

#### Mushrooms.

From the New York Sun.

Mr. MacAlpine has printed a research on luminous mushrooms, of which he enumerates twenty-one different species. Eleven of these belong to the genus *Pleurotus* and five of them are found only in Australia. The luminosity is not due to the presence of phosphorescent bacteria, but is due to a process of combustion, which depends upon the presence of oxygen and on high temperature. It is not affected by humidity. It is probably useful in attracting the insects that disperse the spores.

## AT WORK IN COREA

### The Daily Life of a Young Washington Missionary.

#### A BED ROOM EIGHT FEET SQUARE

#### Interesting Letters Received From Miss Sadie Harbaugh.

FLOORS OF OILED PAPER

Houses with mud walls and floors, windows pasted over with white paper, doors four feet and a half high, and ovens operated with charcoal above and beneath the baking pan—this is a partial list of the surroundings in which a Washington woman is spending her winter. A fair picture of her life is presented to her District of Columbia friends in a series of interesting letters, most of them dated from Ko Yang, Corea, and all of them signed by Miss Sadie Harbaugh, a young woman missionary, who left Washington for Corea several months ago.

"I expect to be out in the country among the Coreans," Miss Harbaugh wrote some time in October, "for a month or more, during which time I do not expect to hear a word in English or see a face that is not Corean. It is an experience, I assure you. However, it is not at all depressing. If you could look into my little eight by eight room tonight—and I wish with all my heart you could—I am sure you would say that it is quite cozy and comfortable. An eight-foot room is not very large, but it is large enough for one woman and an inquisitive cat."

"The greatest difficulty is that I am always knocking my head against the rafters. Corean rooms are eight feet high at the top and about four feet six inches from the floor and as I am about an inch taller, we become more familiar some times than the cat and I. The latter is about eighteen inches wide and the doors are about four feet high. The windows are made of paper and steepled to get in and out of the doors. I feel as though I had made a mistake in not adding to my outfit some kind of lining to the back of my head. The window and door frames are pasted over with white paper, with here and there a little round hole punched through to accommodate the inquisitive eyes of the natives."

#### Paper Floors Like Bronze.

"A Corean floor is the handsomest part of the house. It is made of a plaster of mud with flues underneath for heating purposes. On the mud is pasted five or six layers of paper and then a layer of heavy oiled paper. The floor is covered with oil and is then left burning under it for three days before the oil is wiped up and the floor is ready for use. The paper is wiped up every now and then with oil to keep it from cracking. The floor is a beautiful piece of bronze. I never saw a hard wood floor at home half so handsome."

"My outfit consists of my steamer trunk, containing a few books, changes of clothing, bed clothing, etc., a small canvas folding cot, a small folding table, a light box, a small box of soap, a small box of carpenter put on it, but it isn't comfortable, and a provision box containing twenty-five pounds of flour, some potatoes and some rice. I have a tea kettle, frying pan, stewing pan, a couple of granite plates, cups and saucers, and knife, fork and two spoons. I have a charcoal stove, and I am thinking I would rather do my work myself than bother with one, but I have to do my cooking in a shallow stone basin with a charcoal fire. I have a small pan, and it is a decidedly slow process and has already taken so many hours of the day that I have not time to do much important work that yesterday I sent back to Seoul for some one, and I shall be glad to resign that part of my work. It is a work of a few days to have a pair of pants made, and I tipped one over and burned my hand and came near being scalded badly."

#### Impression Across the Country.

"Day before yesterday I left Seoul with one of our Bible women to accompany me. I wish you could have a picture of the procession. Three coolies headed it—one with the provision box and the others with the smaller articles. I followed in a two-coolie open chair and the Bible woman in a Corean chair came last. We went through the streets of Seoul, and then to the north, for a short distance traveling along outside the wall of the city. The coolies would put down the chairs and rest, or I am sorry to say, set us down in front of a 'seul,' or a 'seul,' and go on for a drink. Their money soon got out, however, and they had to quit. They asked for some of their pay in advance to buy more 'seul,' but I am not sure. It is thick, and looks like yeast. It is intoxicating. Drunken Coreans are a common sight. The Coreans do not use opium."

#### A Corean Chorister and Western Hymns.

"Toward the end of the valley and to the west in the fork of the hills was a large village, of perhaps some 200 or 250 houses. It was Ko Yang, and I had just stopping place. Coming into the village we passed through an avenue of willow trees, and the whole evening scene was sweet and quiet. "Without any inquiry from us the people along the way directed the coolies to the sky or don't sing, though the sounds are to the Christian meeting place—it cannot be properly called a church. There are some thirty or forty Christians in the village. Their meeting house is the house of a Corean thatched-roofed, mud-walled house adapted for the purpose."

#### Unrestrained Native Curiosity.

"Yesterday, which was my first day, I spent in receiving the people who came and in adjusting myself to my new surroundings. After the people started to come in the morning I do not think there was any time during the day there was not some one here. There is hardly any such thing as privacy. When I want to eat my meals I have to go to my room and shut the windows and doors. Yesterday they examined my bed and belongings until I almost began to wonder if it were not a sin to have such a luxury as even a canvas cot when others had to sleep on the floor. However, I do not care. I am sure I shall find the worse sin of suicide I think I shall hold on to my cot and my few other belongings."

"Going out to the houses in town with the Bible women, it is really the most trying part of the work. This place where I am staying is perfectly clean and sweet smelling. It is rather a pity that the air is so fresh and pure, but one of the places we went to see today were awful. We stayed out until 2 o'clock, and I have a sore nose and a headache, and I laid me up with a sick headache for the balance of the day. We were kindly received every place we went, and making

friends of the people we hope will be the initial step to making them Christians. "I cooked my dinner of beans and potatoes after coming back, with several boys and women in to watch the process. Since dinner I have been entertaining some boys, who I am quite sure have spent three-fourths of their time here since my arrival and have been watching everything I do with the closest interest. The Coreans who have not been taught by foreigners think it is such a disgrace to work. I expect I have absolutely scandalized them by doing my own work. These boys seem to be quite praising and I hope we will get them. It seems very likely we shall. I am going to be here only one week, but that is an event with them."

#### Mission Labors Among the Women.

"I am going to put in a great deal of time with this country work, if possible, I am going to stay here one week. Then we are going to walk over to another village eight miles distant, stay there a week, and then go to another five miles further on and stay there a week. My supplies will be exhausted by that time, so I shall either go on to Songdo until I hear definitely whether Miss H. and I will be there this winter, or go back to Seoul until I hear."

Writing at a later date, Miss Harbaugh says, "Many women have been here today and it is almost 1 o'clock now and I expect one is gone except several of the Christian women who have lingered to talk with me. The evening we had a short service. The women's part of the room was crowded and the room adjoining that end of the meeting room was also full. Among the women were two who were 'yang-ban' and a crowd of their servants. It is interesting to watch them. Strange to say the wives of the same man usually seem to be on very friendly terms with each other. I missed the young married man—the immense age of perhaps thirteen—who was here last night."

#### A "Night-See" of the Foreigner.

"I have had but one unpleasant experience—outside of fleas and physical discomfort—since leaving Seoul, fifteen days ago, and that was not of the worst. One day while in the Seoul-met went over into the next valley to a little hamlet where one of our Christian families was living. After teaching the women a 'Koryok' or 'night-see' we had a dwelling in the house, and I stayed and stayed, and my small supply of talk gave out and the woman's chestnuts, on which she was bountifully supplying me, gave out, or rather, she said, 'I would have to go and she would please call Lois.' "The 'night-see' of the place—a rough, rollicking lot—had come into the room from their harvesting for their 'pap' (rice) while I was there, and they were just crazy to see me. I could see them and hear them, but I could not get more than a glimpse of them. The women were very friendly and went to call on Lois, in they flopped bed and they gazed and then commented. A few minutes of such a situation was enough for me and I said, 'I would have to go and start back to La-seul-mak when Lois made her appearance.'"

#### MARRIAGE LICENSES IN DEMAND.

This Has Been a Busy Week at the City Hall.

The past week has been a busy period for the assistant clerks of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, who have marked activity in the clerk's office at the city hall being due to a veritable rush for marriage licenses. Just prior to Christmas day the demand for the necessary authority to wed was almost unprecedented and from 9 o'clock in the morning until long after 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the clerk's office was crowded with prospective bridegrooms and brides. In order to eliminate the possibility of collapse from physical exhaustion the several clerks put into operation a system of rotation.

It requires from three to five minutes to issue a marriage license. The applicant is asked if both parties are citizens of the United States, if the bride has attained the age of twenty-one years, and the woman the age of eighteen years. If the bride is an alien, affirmative, all is plain sailing. In a book kept for the purpose the clerk records the names of the parties, their respective ages, color, nationality and place of birth. The applicant, who must make oath that the answers are true, and she gives to the questions are true, and the clerk is required to sign the record. A duplicate of the record is given to the applicant for one dollar for the same, and it then remains for a minister of the gospel or other person authorized to celebrate marriages in the District of Columbia to do the rest.

The big majority of those who apply for marriage licenses during the holiday season are visitors from Virginia and Maryland. By coming here to be married they reap the benefit of a low license fee and at the same time they are allowed to postpone the fact that they spent their honeymoon at the capital of the nation. It often happens that entire wedding parties, including the bride and groom, the bride and groom, the parents and other relatives of the contracting parties, proceed to the city hall to participate in the procuring of the license. On one occasion there was no end of giggling and blushing, especially when the clerk inquired whether the bride was a virgin. The young man had previously been married. The authority having been given, the gray crowd troops announce to a minister or a justice of the peace, "It is the same old story, and here's the license."

Somewhat or other there is an air of gaiety about the city hall as the application for marriage licenses holiday times of the year. It is not to be noticed in August or March, for example. Although overworked, the issuing of the license is a happy occasion. The spirit of the affair on hand and good-natured people all possible information and assistance to the happy strangers.

#### The President's Rice Dinner.

"President Roosevelt has a splendid memory," said a caller at the White House to a Star reporter recently. "He remembers every small detail of even the most exciting times. Some time ago General Wheeler visited the President and the visit immediately recalled incidents of the San Juan campaign and the fight of San Juan Hill. 'Do you remember,' said the President, 'that when we reached the top of the hill we found a lot of splendidly cooked rice steaming hot in the pots?' General Wheeler remembered, and the President continued: 'thought that was the best rice I ever ate or ever saw. We were hungry, worn out and tired and had eaten nothing but canned meats for days. The cooking was perfect, and the rice was prepared for dinner for the Spaniards, but they had been run out of their fortifications before they expected, and the Spaniards were so hungry that they ate the pots and divided the rice out among the officers and men, giving an equal portion to each. It is the best I ever saw. The feast was the most enjoyable one we had in Cuba.'"

#### The Raw Food Habit.

From London Good Health.

Just now the raw-food diet threatens to become a fad. Certainly many people are experimenting with this new dietetic idea. It would be far better for the average man or woman to adopt an absolutely raw diet, and eat everything which he could possibly eat or relish in a perfectly raw state, than to switch to a diet of the most horrible messes which are concocted by the fashionable dietitians. It is safer on the whole for man to take his food as he finds it in its natural state than to take it as he finds it on the table of the average boarding house or hotel. It is better to eat the food as the farmer man to receive his food straight from the hands of his Maker than from the hands of a French cook."

#### Stops the Cough.

And works of the cold. Laxative Balm—Quinine Tablets cure a cold in 10 to 20 minutes. No Cure, No Pay. 25 cents.